



Dear campus community,

As we begin the final week of the spring semester, so many of us carry a heavy heart following [news of the horrific tragedy in Buffalo, New York](#). According to official reports, the incident was motivated by white supremacy, hate and extremism.

I wish I had the right words to express myself at this moment. Sadness, anger and despair are words that are inadequate, particularly given that these incidents continue to be inflicted on our communities. What is known thus far about the tragedy only deepens the grief and pain because of the seemingly endless violence targeting Black people, especially over the last several years.

The victims were beloved by many. We offer our care and support to all in our CSUSM extended community – both near and far – as we struggle with this news and its impact on us.

As I prepared this message, [news began unfolding about a shooting at Geneva Presbyterian Church](#) in Laguna Woods, Orange County, where the victims were part of a Taiwanese congregation. Regardless of the reason for this violence in a place of worship, what is clear is that hate and violence are being acted out against humanity.

It is horrifying that we continue to see moments like this. While I would never pretend to have all the answers, what I do know is that we must pay attention to our own biases as we do our important work here at CSUSM. Together, we must continue to counter prejudice and hate, helping our next generation of leaders understand, fundamentally, that they are capable of being the change makers of tomorrow.

At this time, please prioritize your well-being, self-care and care for your loved ones. Surround yourself with those you can help, and those who can help you. Please know that the resources below this message are here for you.

In Cougar solidarity,
Ellen Neufeldt

On-Campus Resources:

[Cougar Care Network](#)

[Employee Assistance Program](#)

[Office of Inclusive Excellence](#) (including the [Black Faculty Staff Association](#))

[Student Health & Counseling Services](#)

[Student Life Centers for Identity, Inclusion and Empowerment](#) (including the [Black Student Center](#))

[Websites and BLM Resources compiled by the University Library](#)

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